

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-122, 169, 172, 175 and 178 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 123-168, 170, 171, 173, 174, 176, 177 and 179 are pending. Claims 168, 170, 171, 173, 174, 176, 177 and 179 have been amended to advance prosecution, without prejudice, in a manner believed to have been suggested by the Examiner, in a teleconference of February 16, 2007, to place the application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is requested to return a completely-initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form bearing the OIPE date-stamped of March 2, 2005. Specifically, page 1 of 3 of the PTO-1449 Form returned with the Office Action of August 21, 2006, does not include the Examiner's initials next to the reference Encell and Loeb. The entirety of the PTO-1449 Form has been initialed by the Examiner on August 16, 2006, and the other references indicated as having been specifically considered by initialing next to each of the references. The Encell and Loeb reference however does not include in the left-hand column the Examiner's initials. A completely-initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form, pursuant to MPEP § 609, is requested.

A Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

SPRINGER et al.
Serial No. 10/526,173
February 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____ /B. J. Sadoff/

B. J. Sadoff

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